

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESB 5235

---

---

As Passed Senate, March 6, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to repealing and reorganizing outdated statutes concerning public schools.

**Brief Description:** Repealing and reorganizing outdated statutes concerning public schools.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wellman, Harris, Nobles, Saldaña and Wilson, C..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/28/25, 2/05/25 [DP].

**Floor Activity:** Passed Senate: 3/6/25, 48-1.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill**

- Repeals statutes addressing a variety of topics in the Revised Code of Washington Title 28A.
- Corrects internal references based on the repealed provisions.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair, K-12; Wilson, C., Vice Chair, Early Learning; Harris, Ranking Member; Cortes, Dozier, Hansen, Krishnadasan and McCune.

**Staff:** Alex Fairfortune (786-7416)

**Background:** The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) may be modified in many ways, including repealing, recodifying, and amending statutory language. When a statute is repealed the cross-references to that statute within the RCW are amended or removed to reflect the change.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Engrossed Bill:** The following statutes in Title 28A are repealed:

- statutes that encourage school boards and school districts to complete certain tasks, including:
  1. a statute that encourages school boards to consider the purchase of playground matting manufactured from shredded waste tires for playgrounds;
  2. a statute that encourages middle, junior high, and high schools to implement a comprehensive guidance and planning program and directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to provide support for such programs, subject to appropriations;
  3. a statute that encourages school districts to create space in school buildings where students and families can access certain services, such as food banks;
- statutes that allow school boards to establish certain awards programs, including:
  1. a statute that allows a school board to maintain an employee suggestion program to encourage and reward meritorious suggestions by employees;
  2. a statute that allows a school district to establish a commendable employee service and recognition award program for school employees;
- statutes that create programs that are subject to appropriations and no longer receiving funding, including:
  1. a statute that directs OSPI to develop and offer training designed to help classified instructional assistants maximize their effectiveness in improving student achievement;
  2. a statute that directs OSPI to offer professional development for handling disruptive students during the summer of 2000;
  3. a statute that directs OSPI to develop a math and science instructional coach program;
  4. a statute that directs OSPI to allocate accountability implementation funds to school districts to develop and update student learning improvement plans;
- statutes that pertain to directives and reporting dates that have passed; and
- statutes that allow nonprofit programs to use school facilities for the purpose of feeding elderly people residing in the area;
  1. similar statutes pertaining to feeding children are recodified in the food services chapter.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill comes from an effort to remove requirements for schools. We had visions of being able to take things away that were no longer necessary or not funded. But there are so many things that are so foundational that

we didn't feel it was appropriate to remove them. We removed as many as we could, which was only 20, but this gets them off the record so school districts don't need to worry about them.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Lisa Wellman, Prime Sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.